



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 15, 2007, 3:00 pm CST

Contact: Holley Bolen
402.471.3888

Bruning Announces Former Franklin Police Officer Sentenced for Sexual Abuse of Inmate

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced today that former Franklin Police Officer Matthew Bower was sentenced today to one year in Franklin County Jail for one count of felony Sexual Abuse of an Inmate and six months for one count of misdemeanor Official Misconduct, to be served concurrently.

“Mr. Bower’s crimes violated the public trust and undermined the values that those in law enforcement are sworn to uphold,” Bruning said. “Now he’ll have to pay for his crimes.”

Bower, 25, pleaded no contest to the two charges in September following an investigation by the Nebraska State Patrol. According to the investigation, Bower had removed a female inmate from the Franklin County Jail on at least seventeen occasions between March 31 and July 3, 2006. During some of those encounters, Bower engaged in sexual activities with the inmate.

Bower had been employed with the Franklin Police Department since November 2003.

The case was handled by Assistant Attorney General Corey O’Brien.

###

An audio clip about the sentencing is posted on the Attorney General’s Web site at www.ago.ne.gov.